(a) whether the Government has considered the relative advantages of a bridge at Chalakkal chira referred to above and the proposed one at Pallimanna;

(b) is the Government aware of the considerable havoc caused by annual floods even now to about 200 acres of wet lands lying above the proposed road ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Detailed investigation and the preparation of an estimate for a combined bridge and chira at Chalakkal have been ordered. The construction of a foot-bridge at Pallimanna has also been ordered to be included in the 1108 budget. The question of relative advantages will arise only when one is preferred to the other. When both are proposed to be taken up, the question does not arise.

(b) No.

Scarcity of water—Edakulathur Village.

472. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezuthassan.—With reference to answer to question No. 203 of the budjet session of 1106, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government has made any inquiry into the existence of scarcity of water in the village of Edakulathur in the hot months of the year ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With regard to the enquiry what is the result of the enquiry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—The enquiry showed that there was some water scarcity in the place.

Government Quarters for Departmental Heads.

473. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any of the departmental heads have been given Government quarters for their residence ;

(b) if given, whether they are given rent free ;

(c) if some only are given, why the preference ;

(d) whether in the case of persons given such quarters they own houses of their own in the same locality which are rented out ;

(e) on what grounds are such quarters given ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes, the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, the Conservator of Forests and the Excise Commissioner.

(b) Rent free only to the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

(c) There is no preference. The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer has been given rent free quarters for not less

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